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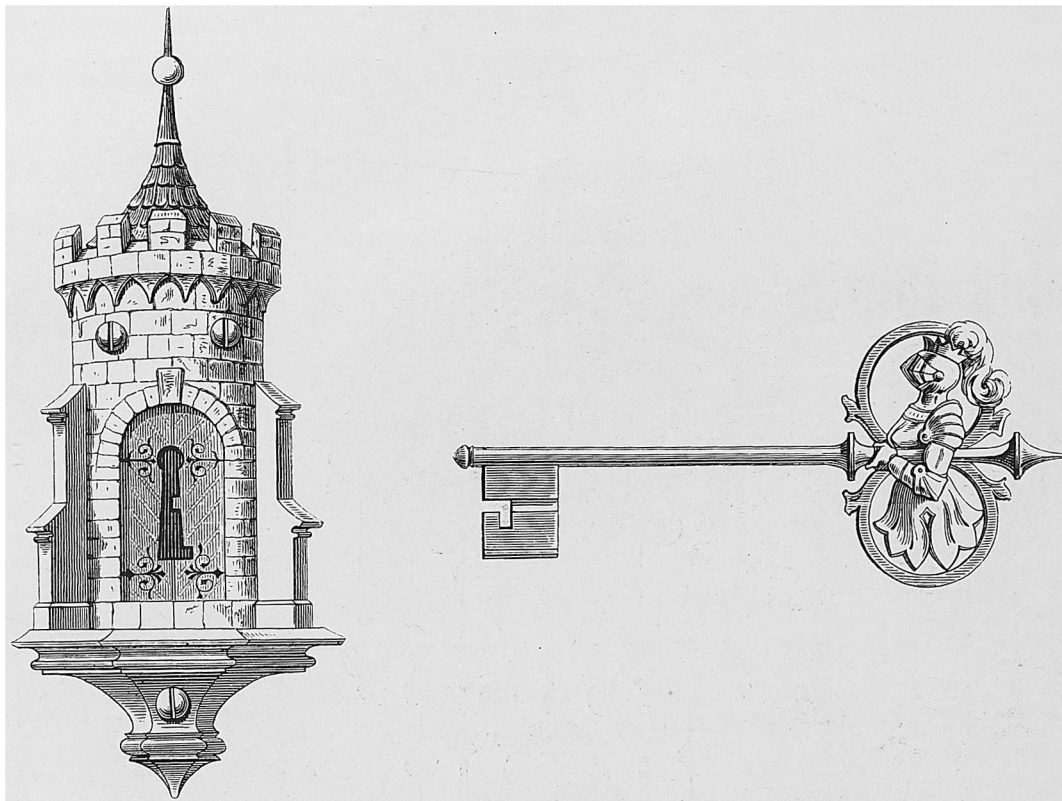
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Nos. 30 and 31. Escutcheon and Key designed by Mr. Høegg, Heilbronn.

VARIOUS.

Improvement in Decorative Oil Painting.

Jean Marie Laschè, of Paris, has invented and patented, through the Scientific American Patent Agency, certain improvements in decorative oil painting, the object being to replace the painting in oil executed directly on surfaces for buildings, ships, carriages, carpenter's work, cabinet work, furniture, ornaments etc., and also the gilding, by a portable oil, painting or gilding already executed, finished, and dry, which is applied by sheets, strips, or pieces upon the said surfaces, by the aid of a sticky varnish or waterproof cement. The process is as follows:

Tin foil of the greatest thickness — that is to say, foil of tin or composite metals therewith, which are rolled very thin and known as tin foil in the trade — is spread evenly upon a hard and smooth surface, which by preference, is slightly moistened to assist in the process of spreading the tin foil. Upon this tin foil any desired effect of oil painting is executed, from the plain oil painting in flat tone, to the most elaborate ornamentation in all its branches; and this can be done either by hand or by processes of printing, stencilling, through the aid of machinery, in whole or in part, imitation of costly woods, stones, and marbles, subjects in flowers, birds, shells, landscapes, subjects of interior, imitation of carving as well as plain gilded, ornamental gilding, and a combination of gilding and oil painting. In short, anything which is executed in oil paint may, it is claimed, be executed upon this tin foil. The work when finished, is varnished, and when thoroughly dry is removed from the hard surface upon which it was sheathed. It is then ready to be transported from the shop, and for that purpose it may be rolled like wall-paper. To apply this portable paint, the surface or object upon which it is to be placed is coated with a sticky varnish or hydraulic cement; this portable paint is cut of the suitable size and applied, carefully pressing it against the surface or object, so as to drive away all intervening air. The sheets may be applied to irregular surfaces, carving, sculpture, mouldings etc., as the tin foil and the oil paint and gold thereon are each very pliable.

Silicate Paint.

A curious deposit of almost pure silica was recently discovered in one of the hills in North Wales. The deposit lies in a basin of volcanic origin, at a considerable level above the sea, and forms the bed of a small lake about two miles in length and one mile in width. Amongst its uses, it is stated that it would be especially suited for producing crystal glass, and for the manufacture of porcelain, especially if the small percentage of oxide of iron were removed from it. At present the only use made of this silica is in the production of paint. For this purpose it is especially suitable as it unites freely with the pigments and oils, and is worked with ease.

Moreover, it entirely resists the action of any acid, and withstands the action of heat. Added to such advantages, are these no less important, that the paint has no metallic base in its composition, and when laid on it becomes extremely hard, and polished on the surface. The proprietors of this deposit have for some time past been producing this paint at the works of the Silicate Paint Company Fenwick-street Liverpool, and extended trials have been obtained with it. Time is necessary to establish the correctness of what is stated about this paint, but it seems deserving of trial.

(*The Builder.*)

Coating with Zinc.

According to Mr. Böttger, copper or brass may be given a firmly adherent zinc coating by the following method. Finely divided or powdered zinc, in a non-metallic vessel, is covered with a concentrated sal-ammoniac solution; this is heated to boiling, and the articles of copper or brass, properly cleansed, are introduced. A few minutes suffice to produce a firm and brilliant coating. The requisite fineness of the zinc is produced by pouring the molten metal into a mortar and triturating the same until it solidifies.